

# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*

### *Office of the Governor*

*Whereas*, Agriculture is the basic industry in South Dakota providing the markets and the raw material for much of the state's economy; and,

*Whereas*, South Dakota can prosper only as the agricultural industry has the purchasing power to absorb the goods and services needed and the markets and transportation to handle the produce raised; and,

*Whereas*, Farmer-owned cooperatives, a basic part of our American private enterprise system, help individual farmers retain their identity and strength; and,

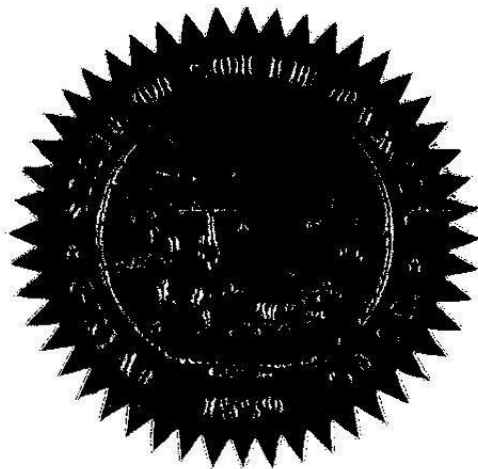
*Whereas*, Cooperatives have made a substantial contribution to the development of a progressive agricultural economy in South Dakota, providing the means by which farmers can increase their bargaining power and achieve economic recognition in the market place; and,

*Whereas*, Cooperatives have not only benefited the agricultural industry, but the general public as well, by placing a priority on people, making them a rigorous part of the American business system:

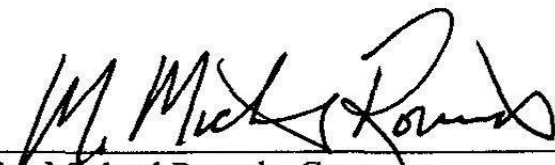
*Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds*, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 2004, as

## *COOPERATIVES MONTH*

in South Dakota.



*In Witness Whereof*, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-second Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

  
M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

  
Chris Nelson, Secretary of State